

can receive is just 2 years, regardless of how long the discrimination has gone on. Mr. President, 180 days is a very short period of time in terms of filing a complaint—much shorter than any other statute of limitations that is out there for any wrong anyone suffers in our country.

I think people need to remember how Lilly found out about this. The jury found in her favor. The EEOC found in her favor. The law was in her favor—until the Supreme Court overturned it.

How did she find out she was being discriminated against? She had been there all these years. She had started out on an even keel with the colleagues who were men. Someone slipped her an anonymous note. There is not a tote board somewhere she could have checked. Someone slipped her an anonymous note in the workplace and said: Hey, do you realize what is happening to you? You need to start asking some questions about what is happening to your pay.

This is not just about women. This is also about the older workforce. By the way, with the economy the way it is right now, under this administration, people are having to work longer. People who used to think they could retire at 62—forget about that—they are working into their late sixties, into their seventies. In fact, we have many Members in this body who are working hard every day who are well beyond their early seventies who are contributing on a daily basis to this place. Should those people be discriminated against because they are older? Should they have to figure out in 180 days that a younger colleague is making a bigger paycheck?

What about the minorities in this country? This is not just about women. This is about discrimination. We need to send a very clear signal to the rest of the country that we understand we have to fix this and we have to fix it quickly.

This is not a bunch of whining over something that is not important. That 22 cents in Missouri that a woman makes less than a man is important. It is important to pay for the gas. It is important to pay for the daycare. It is important in order to make the bills come out even.

In Missouri, the figure is that women earn 78 cents for every \$1 earned by men. The median annual income for a man with a college degree in Missouri, from the years 2004 to 2006, was \$59,000. For a woman with the same amount of education, it was \$46,000. The American Association of University Women did that study in the State of Missouri.

We need to unite behind this legislation. This is not going to be onerous for employers out there. It is fair. It is just fair. It is what we pledge allegiance to every day in this room: equal justice for all. Let's make sure we fix this. Let's make sure we move and pass this bill and send it to the President. I will tell you what, if this President has the nerve to veto this bill, I know a lot

of women in America who are going to wake up and get busy before November.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I would like to be recognized, if I could. I ask to speak in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the Senator withhold the suggestion?

Mrs. McCASKILL. Yes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

VETERANS' BENEFITS ENHANCEMENT ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this morning on the floor of the Senate is a bill entitled the Veterans' Benefits Enhancement Act of 2007. Nine months ago, this bill came out of committee, and this bill is now on the floor and to be considered.

Back in November of last year, I asked for permission to bring this bill up for consideration in the Senate and have amendments. It is the orderly process of the Senate, a deliberative process: a debate—and one might expect that is what we do around here. But, sadly, at that point the Republican minority objected to bringing up the Veterans' Benefits Enhancement Act, even though it had passed out of the committee with an overwhelmingly positive vote.

What is included in this bill? A long list of important changes in the law, changes which will give to our veterans, especially those returning now disabled from combat, benefits they absolutely need: housing, education.

In addition, there is a provision in here which I support—was happy to join as a cosponsor—related to Filipino World War II veterans. I think it is long overdue that the U.S. Senate recognize the contribution made by so many Filipinos in World War II to the success of our war effort. They fought so gallantly and courageously and stood by our troops at a moment we desperately needed their help. Those who are not students of history may have forgotten or never read that our fight in the Philippines was a bitter, long, and tragic battle that ended well but only after great sacrifice by the Filipino people, by the Filipino soldiers, and by our American soldiers.

This provision in the bill related to veterans:

would deem certain service before July 1, 1946, in the organized military forces of the Philippines and the Philippine Scouts as active military service for purposes of eligibility for veterans benefits.

[It] would provide that the children of deceased or totally-disabled service-connected Filipino veterans who qualify for educational benefits would be paid at the same rate and under the same conditions as the children of other veterans.

Mr. President, this is long overdue.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Time for morning business is expired.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 10 minutes on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, would the clerk report the motion to proceed to the bill at this point, or should I proceed?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. It is appropriate to close morning business and then report the motion to proceed.

Morning business is closed.

VETERANS' BENEFITS ENHANCEMENT ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume the motion to proceed to S. 1315, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A motion to proceed to the bill (S. 1315) to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance life insurance benefits for disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I see Senator KLOBUCHAR on the floor. I think she was coming to speak in morning business, and I may have used the minute or two that was remaining for her. I wish to address the motion to proceed to the bill that is pending, but since she is on the floor, I would like to give her a chance to speak at this moment before I do. So I ask—if it meets with the approval of the Senator from North Carolina—unanimous consent that the Senator from Minnesota be recognized for—

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Five minutes.

Mr. DURBIN. Five minutes, and that following her remarks, I be recognized for 10 minutes to speak on the pending motion to proceed.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, and I do not plan on objecting, if the 5 minutes is to come out of the majority's time for the debate—which the time is split between now and 12 o'clock between the majority and minority—if Senator KLOBUCHAR's time comes out of the majority's time, fine.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it is my understanding Senator AKAKA wants to speak for up to 10 minutes. So I am trying to figure out—we have 38 minutes remaining before the vote, so that would allow 19 minutes per side. If Senator AKAKA needs 10 minutes, I would ask for 4 minutes and yield 5 minutes to Senator KLOBUCHAR, if that meets with the Senator's approval.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Chair hears none, and it is so ordered.

The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I say to my colleague from Illinois, thank you very much. I appreciate the time. If I go less than 5 minutes, I will give you back the rest of the time.